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# The West Ender

By and for the West End Neighborhood

November 2005

in mature trees. Combined with the record-breaking sprawl that is occurring in this area, there is a dire need for open spaces, trees, parks and recreational areas. This is that Plan.

Winston-Salem has 75 parks covering 3,349 acres that are part of the 99 parks and 5,818 acres in Forsyth County. Hanes Park is mentioned from surveys as one of the most used. 82% of those surveyed had visited a least one park in the last year and 66.4% had an overall satisfaction with the parks. The Parks and Open Space Plan is mostly aimed at new park land and areas such as Triad Park on the eastern edge of the county. There is some mention of our area. Downtown the Plan aims at the civic park around the Courthouse, a sports stadium and downtown green spaces. While not specific, dog parks are mentioned several times as part of the future need. Community Greens are discussed as a way that home owners can combine to keep areas adjacent to each other as "park land" (page 24).

Specific to the West End is mention of the park that is part of our neighborhood strategic plan – I-40 and Jarvis St (page 62). There is also talk of improving the Downtown Park, which I believe refers to the small park on West End Blvd., which is also a strategic initiative of the neighborhood. A public gathering place is mentioned for Holly Avenue (page 63).

The West End continues to put considerable effort into our parks including the recent improvement in waste cans in Grace Court, the effort to replace benches in West End and push for renovations to the Downtown Park. There has also been discussion of moving the Daniel Boone Arrow to Hanes Park so it can be accessed more by children and the public. We have had to fight hard to ensure that Hanes Park isn't totally a formal recreational area for the schools rather than available to the public in general. You are encouraged to submit comments on the Plan to Marilyn John at 727-2087 or [marylimj@cityofws.org](mailto:marylimj@cityofws.org). - George Bryan

**West End Neighborhood Association 2005 Membership Form**

Join the West End Association and help support a friendly and beautiful neighborhood.  
 Membership is \$15 per family or \$30 per business.  
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**In this Issue:**  
 - VOTE Nov. 8 or early!  
 - ARTSfest Afterthoughts...  
 - President's Message  
 - HRC Schedule for November  
 - October WEA Meeting Minutes  
 - Parks Plans

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**ARTSfest – "The Home Movie"**

What occurs to me is that possibly the most prevalent art experienced at this year's ARTSfest was *the art of being neighborly*. For some participants it was an opportunity to reconnect with friends they had missed. For others, a chance to strike up acquaintances over shared interests in art, gardening, music, kids, food, and you-name-it. ARTSfest was the backdrop for the play, but the players were the real story.

For me, watching folks interact answered the question I had asked myself (sometimes silently, sometimes not) over the past several months: "Why the \_\_\_\_\_ are we doing this?" Being an exhibitor this year allowed me to appreciate a whole different side of the festival. I was able to enjoy that because my co-chair Cathy Stanley worked herself beyond human addressing all of the hundreds of details that arose the days just prior to, and the day of the event. Thank you, Cathy! I owe you big.


If this year's event had a more professional air, say thanks to West End Art Gallery owner Kristin Jones, who oversaw all details of artistry and artists and to her musical counterpart Nora Garver who recruited, and was part of, the musical talent that kept us riveted on the stage for much of the festival. I should also mention that Lee Ann Manning's storm door is probably working better now that it's no longer the drop box for scribbled instructions that Lee Ann somehow magically transformed into mailing labels, name tags, sponsor letters, award certificates, etc. We hope that Jack Smith can still find his way home after all the meetings and activities that go into being a jack-of-all-trades, but he was all that and more. Dave and Marilyn Poorbaugh's support on the steering committee would have been chicken soup for the soul even without all those dinner meetings. And Julia Toone is, no doubt, sleeping easier now that she can once again count sheep instead of volunteers. Here's a tip from Alex Flowers on how to juggle family responsibilities while pulling together the volunteer party: "Group your tasks by region so you can have Baby #2 while you're in that part of town."

This year's volunteers came from all over Winston-Salem and from all over the country. From Lewisville to Alaska (no kidding!), New York, Massachusetts and the list goes on. For a day they joined their West End neighbors and celebrated the arts by pitching in, and hopefully, came away with something within from the experience. Thank you one and all!

- Kathleen Ramich  
 ARTSfest Co-Chair

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**President's Column**  
**The West End Establishes another Festive Tradition: ARTSfest 2005!**

Those of you didn't get outdoors on the glorious first day of October in the West End for the celebration of the arts known as ARTSfest held at Grace Court (and shame on you if you missed it!) really missed out on something special to be sure! This organic, community-grown event was spawned from the creative minds of local West End resident Kathleen Ramich and her friend Cathy Stanley, Co-Chairs of the event since they first conceived of it back in 2003. The entire West End community, no, all of Winston Salem, no, the entire Triad, no that's not right either, the state of North Carolina (I talked to two people from Raleigh and Charlotte who were there just for the event!) owes these two artistic entrepreneurs a huge debt of gratitude for not only creating the concept but straw bossing the activities, slaving over the preparation, organizing the volunteers (well known to be akin to herding cats) and in general seeing to it that the West End can be justly proud of this biennial event that can now take its place right up there with the neighborhood's other long established festivity, the Holiday Home Tour. Traditions often get started by the venturesome ones among us, the dreamers, the left-brainers, frankly, by the doers of this world who can make things happen, are passionate about the mission they set for themselves and have the tenacity and drive to inspire others to get involved, to come along on the quest. Such are these two community treasures, and I'd like to personally and formally thank them for their commitment to the communities they served well this October, not just the West End, but the artistic, and yes, the music communities of the area. A lot of people owe them more than we can ever hope to repay. Mounting efforts such as these are Herculean tasks that often cannot be sustained over the long run. The home tour lives on some two decades since first created. It's established. (And I don't know who first conceived of the idea but whoever you are please raise your hand - I'd like to talk to you about the origins!) ARTSfest, too, is now established, with two major successes under its belt. But in a little less than two years the communities will be expecting another good time and we really shouldn't disappoint them. I haven't talked to Kathleen and Cathy about it but I suspect they could use a breather from heading this festival up again the next time out. Just as the home tour succeeds with a series of rotating Co-Chairs perhaps this too should be the way we handle ARTSfest in the future. I'm sure the founders could use a rest; heaven knows they've earned it! So, if they want to let some other folks pick up the challenge next time out, we're OK with it - just as long as they remain on as ARTSfest Emeritus! But if they're game for the "three-peat" I'm willing to let them lead us on to artistic glory once again. Again - THANKS!!

- Steve Joiner, WEA President

**This Month at the HRC**  
Historic Resources Commission,  
Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2005 at 4:00 P.M.; City Hall South Public Meeting Room, Room 530;  
100 East First Street, Winston-Salem

This group meets monthly to review applications for repair work and alterations in Forsyth County's local historic districts. You can always check their website at [www.ForsythCountHRC.org](http://www.ForsythCountHRC.org) or call them at the Planning Department at 727-2087 for the latest information or for questions about your property.

There are no approvals scheduled for November other than Minor Work COAs, a list of which was not available at press time.



**New Parks and Open Spaces Plan Needs Your Help**

The City of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County are in the midst of requesting comments on a Plan to enhance use and increase the amount of park land in the county. From the period 1976 -1997 Forsyth County lost 38,632 acres of farmland. From 1987 - 1997 there was a 14% decline

(continued on page four)

**WEA October Meeting Minutes**

The West End Association met at the Tise Mansion on October 4<sup>th</sup> with President Steve Joiner calling the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes were approved from the September 13<sup>th</sup> Association meeting.

The Treasurer's Report reflected a negative cash flow for the month of September, with expenses from ArtsFest negatively impacting the statement. Income from ArtsFest will be calculated in October's financial report. A comment was made that West End needs to utilize some of its cash surplus to fund local West End beautification projects. The group brought forward several topics that could be considered for support.

Captain Belton and Lieutenant Cobb were on hand to discuss and answer questions about a "Peeping Tom" situation that is occurring in and around West End. Some important prevention tips are, being aware of your environment, reporting suspicious activity or people to the police, and keeping curtains closed at night. The police fielded several questions from the group and Captain Belton closed by saying "Prevention is the best action folks can implement that will stop crime from occurring on your street".

- Rick Pender,  
WEA Secretary

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